SANTA CRUZ: OAKES COLLEGE

12 February 1982

KEITH MUSCUTT
ASSISTANT DEAN OF THE ARTS
PORTER COLLEGE

Dear Keith:

This letter is in regard to your inquiry into my knowledge of the work and talents of Philip Brookman, under whose direction the Mary Porter Sesnon Gallery has provided many high quality and memorable exhibits since its founding in 1975.

I became more aware of Mr. Brookman's qualities with the assemblage and exhibition of the "Califas:Chicano Culture in California" exhibit, shown at the gallery in spring of 1981. At that time it was crucial to have the director's support in order to pull off an exhibit of the scope and monumentality which the "Califas" committee planned. Mr. Brookman gave much more than was expected of him at every level. Through his organizational abilities he was able to bring a variety of individuals together in a common goal. I personally witnessed him putting in sixteen-hour days, addressing himself to the multiple duties that the Sesnon directorship requires.

The success of the "Califas" exhibit speaks for itself in the many positive reviews and numbers of people attending the exhibit. Just last week "La Opinión", the United States' largest Spanish language newspaper, ran a review of the exhibit which covered two full pages and next week they are running a continuation of the review which gives an indication of the importance with which the Chicano population has viewed this exhibit.

The "Califas" proposal of 96 pages to the N.E.A. was finally hammered out by Philip on the Sesnon Gallery typewriter. He gave the proposal its final polish and organization. This proposal was successful in receiving a grant of $15,000.00 from the N.E.A. Art historian, Professor John Fitzgibbon of Sacramento State University, in reading the proposal said that "it is the most sophisticated proposal I have every read." He added, "and I have read a lot of them."

The Gallery, under Philip Brookman's guidance, has proven itself an indispensable pedagogical tool for art and art history students as well as the larger community. Exhibitions such as the "Califas" exhibit, as well as the "African Rhythms" and the double exhibit of "Minamata" and "Falkland Road," testify to the role the Gallery is playing in bringing knowledge of non-western artistic and societal concerns. These concerns are vital to the understanding and flourishment of American art, yet exhibits of these sensibilities remain largely ignored by established museums. Some argue that a small undergraduate institution such as ours should not endeavor to do work of such scope, yet who is to do it if we don't. Time and time again history has proven that it takes only one clear minded, well intentioned person to change the way things are for society's betterment. I believe Philip Brookman is such a person.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Carrillo
Associate Professor of Art and Humanities

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